

Analytic perturbation theory versus $1/N$ expansion in the Gross-Neveu model

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The $1/N$ expansion can be successfully used to calculate the Green functions of the two-dimensional $O(2N)$ Gross – Neveu model. In parallel, the methods of analytic perturbation theory are also applied. Comparing the results of these two calculations at leading order, we report on the surprising agreement between them.

PACS numbers: 11.10.Kk, 12.38.Aw, 12.38.Lg, 12.39.Ki

An analytic model for the QCD running coupling $\bar{\alpha}_s(Q^2)$ has been proposed in [1]. Since then, this concept evolved to become the method known as analytic perturbation theory (APT) [2]. The model is essentially based on the old idea of combining the renormalization group (RG) summation of the perturbative series of ultra-violet (UV) logarithms with analyticity in the Q^2 variable. This idea has been used previously in the context of the QED ghost-pole problem [3]. Certain reservations are in order when applying this idea to the QCD case. Some of them have been pointed out in [1]. However, this discussion did not address the pertinent aspect of QCD which relates to chiral symmetry breaking (ChSB) in the infrared (IR) region [4]. It is commonly accepted that this nonperturbative phenomenon takes place in QCD.

Recently attempts have been undertaken to apply a second order Bethe – Salpeter formalism to the evaluation of the meson spectrum in QCD [5]. The idea of broken chiral symmetry was taken into account through an approximate solution of the appropriate Dyson – Schwinger equations. It has been shown that the meson spectrum is well described if the analytic running coupling $\bar{\alpha}_{APT}(Q^2)$ is used in the region $Q^2 < 1 \text{ GeV}^2$, *i.e.* it was assumed there that except for analyticity, the IR behaviour of this coupling does not require any additional nonperturbative corrections, caused for instance by the dynamical ChSB effect in QCD.

The analyticity of the running coupling function is a general requirement applied to any field theory, including the theories with dynamical ChSB. The latter however can possess an interesting property: there are models [6] where the analyticity of the running coupling is automatically fulfilled in the true ground state. On the other hand, the same coupling, being calculated in the false vacuum, possesses a Landau singularity in the IR region of Q^2 . At large momenta both calculations coincide.

Let us imagine for a moment that one knows only the result of the false vacuum calculation. It is natural in this case to use the APT method. The corresponding analytization procedure, based on the spectral representation of the Källen – Lehmann type, gives rise to a nonperturbative contribution, which “cures” the IR ghost-pole problem. This improvement in the low-energy part of the

theory should nevertheless be consistent with the idea of spontaneously broken symmetry: improved calculations based on the false vacuum should not deviate much from the result obtained from the true ground state. If deviations turn out to be big, one should assume that additional nonperturbative contributions must still be considered. On the contrary, if deviations are small the APT result can be a good approximation even for theories with dynamical ChSB.

Certainly, it would be most tempting to use the APT result without introducing additional corrections due to ChSB, *i.e.*, supposing that the nonperturbative correction inherent in analyticity already emulates a major part of the ChSB effect, at least up to some low-energy scale. The attempt to extract the IR QCD coupling from the meson spectrum and to compare it with the APT result has been made recently in [7].

Here we show that there is a sensible way to discuss this point also on pure theoretical grounds by applying the APT method to a theory which possesses crucial properties of QCD and yet is solvable both in the UV and IR regions. To put it more precisely, following the soluble two-dimensional $O(2N)$ -symmetric Gross – Neveu (GN) model [8], which is known to be a renormalizable and asymptotically free quantum field theory, we argue in this letter that there is actually a remarkable agreement between the running coupling obtained by the APT method and, independently, by the $1/N$ nonperturbative expansion.

One should elucidate two points here. First, we compare only the leading order results, believing that higher orders can be interesting if the first step happens to be successful. Second, to be precise one can speak only about accurate agreement in the region of Euclidean momenta $Q^2 > \Lambda^2$ *i.e.*, above the perturbative Landau singularity. It would be too naive to expect that the simple analytization procedure can perfectly describe all details of the nonperturbative dynamics. Nevertheless, our calculations clearly show that this procedure is compatible with the fact that fermions acquire their masses dynamically. The same conclusion has been made in [7] for QCD.

The effective coupling $\bar{g}^2(Q^2)$ of the four-fermion in-

interactions in the GN model, obtained after an RG resummation of the leading UV logs in the naive vacuum, *i.e.*, for massless fermions, is described by the formula

$$N \bar{g}_{RG}^{2(1)}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{\beta_0 \ln(Q^2/\Lambda^2)}. \quad (1)$$

The l.h.s. is fixed as $N \rightarrow \infty$, this explains the presence of the factor N . Here $\beta_0 = 1/2\pi$, Λ is an RG invariant scale, $\Lambda = \mu \exp[-1/(2\beta_0 g_\mu^2)]$, and g_μ is the coupling constant renormalized at a scale μ (a momentum cut-off scheme is used; dimensional regularization gives essentially the same result).

After imposing APT analyticity one obtains an expression similar to that found for the QCD coupling $\bar{\alpha}_{APT}^{(1)}(Q^2)$ (see Ref. [1]) at the one loop order in the region $Q^2 > 0$

$$N \bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{\beta_0} \left(\frac{1}{\ln(Q^2/\Lambda^2)} + \frac{\Lambda^2}{\Lambda^2 - Q^2} \right). \quad (2)$$

The last term eliminates the unphysical Landau singularity at $Q^2 = \Lambda^2$ from the perturbative RG improved result (1). This singularity results from the assumption that fermions are massless in the vacuum. We do this on purpose. Our aim at this stage is to obtain the invariant coupling $\bar{g}^2(Q^2)$ by the APT method without detailed description of the phase state of the GN model. In some respect this resembles the QCD case where one obtains the analogues of eqs. (1) and (2) neglecting details related to the ChSB effect. As a possible alternative we mention here a model for the QCD invariant coupling, which is based on the hypothesis of finite gluon and quark masses [9].

At present the main properties of the GN model are well studied. In particular, it is known that the $1/N$ expansion is a rather firm method to find that fermions are massive in the true vacuum [8]. Indeed, as has been stressed first by Witten [10], the GN model possesses a low-temperature phase of the Berezinski – Kosterlitz – Thouless type [11]. In this phase, the fermions have mass $M \neq 0$, just as if there were true spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking. It is fortunate (although perhaps just a coincidence) that the model exhibits in this way a feature that would be present in higher dimensions. Here we would like to stress only two important facts in favour of the $1/N$ expansion: (a) it yields the correct spectrum for the model [12]; (b) the exact S-matrix obtained in [13] can be expanded in powers of $1/N$ correctly reproducing the known terms of the $1/N$ series (see also Ref. [14]). It shows that the $1/N$ expansion is a well convergent series.

Thus, the $1/N$ expansion provides a solid basis for the calculation of the fermion mass M , which results in $M = \Lambda$ at leading order (both the exact and $1/N$ results for the ratio M/Λ can be found in Ref. [15]). To obtain the RG invariant running coupling $\bar{g}^2(Q^2)$ one can use the mass dependent RG method [16]. In the true ground state ($M \neq 0$) one has [6, 8]

$$N \bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(Q^2) = \frac{1}{\beta_0} \left[X \ln \frac{X+1}{X-1} \right]^{-1}, \quad (3)$$

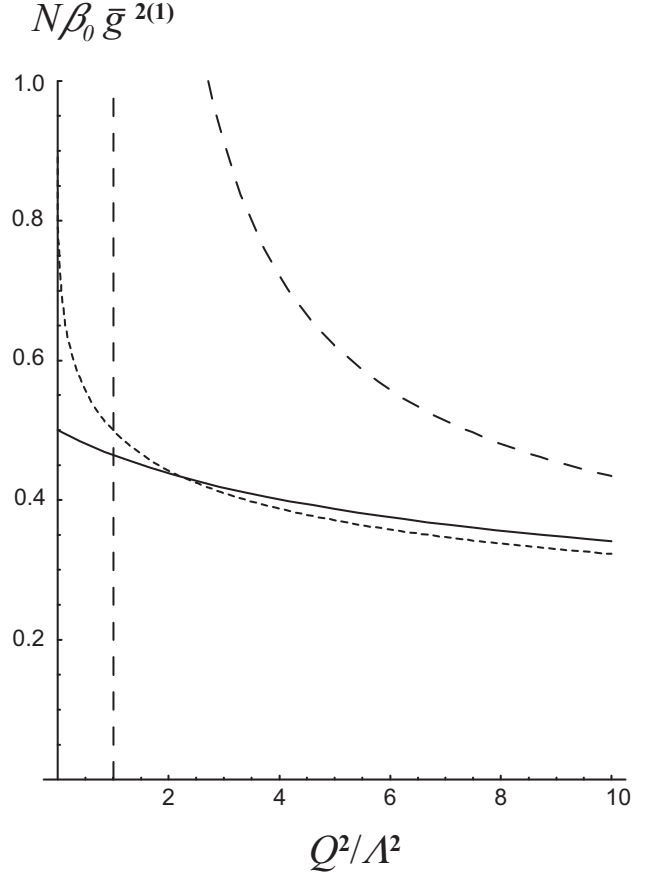


FIG. 1: The effective coupling of four-fermion interactions $N\beta_0\bar{g}^{2(1)}$ as a function of the ratio Q^2/Λ^2 . The curves represent the functions given by eq. (2) (short-dashed curve), eq. (3) (solid curve) and the RG resummed perturbative result eq. (1) (long dashes). Curves (2), (3) intercept the ordinate at 1 and 0.5 respectively. The vertical dashed line corresponds to the position of the Landau singularity at $Q^2/\Lambda^2 = 1$.

where $X = \sqrt{1 + 4M^2/Q^2}$. Both expressions, namely, eqs. (2) and (3), have the same UV asymptotics.

Note also that the fermion mass can be simply found by considering the one-loop effective potential $V(\phi_c)$ of the GN model as a function of a classical scalar field ϕ_c which represents the fermion-antifermion bound state

$$V(\phi_c) = \frac{N\phi_c^2}{4\pi} \left(\ln \frac{\phi_c^2}{\Lambda^2} - 1 \right). \quad (4)$$

This function has two stationary points, $\phi_c = 0$ and $\phi_c = \Lambda$, and a positive second derivative, $V''(\Lambda) = N/\pi$ (minimum), for the second case alone. These two solutions correspond to the massless (false vacuum) and massive (true vacuum) fermion states.

The functions given by eqs. (1), (2), and (3) are presented in fig. 1. Our first observation is that the two functions $N\bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$ and $N\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$ are quite close to each other in the interval $1 < Q^2/\Lambda^2 < \infty$. In this domain the analytic correction agrees perfectly well with

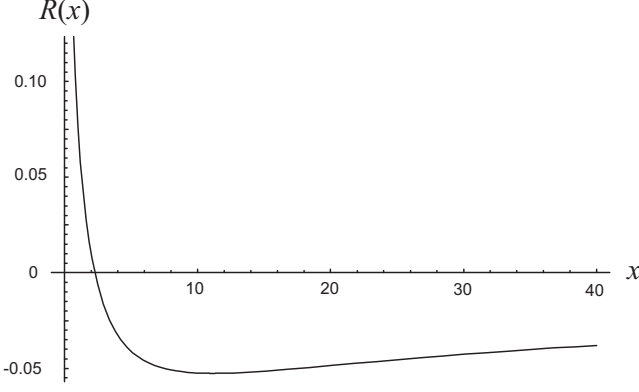


FIG. 2: The relative deviation of two quantities $\bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$ and $\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$, described by eq. (5), is shown as a function of the ratio Q^2/Λ^2 .

the well-established fact that the fermions have a nonzero mass in the GN model. There is a sizeable difference in the results only at small values of Q^2 , *i.e.*, in the IR region $0 < Q^2 < \Lambda^2$. Here, for instance, the value $N\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(0) = (2\beta_0)^{-1}$ is smaller than $N\bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)}(0)$ by a factor of two, and $\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(0) = \bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)}(\Lambda^2)$. In this region, the results of the analytic model should be taken with care. This is our second observation.

To compare the expressions obtained for the strength coupling, we consider the ratio

$$R(x) = \frac{\bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)} - \bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}}{\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}}, \quad x = \frac{Q^2}{\Lambda^2}, \quad (5)$$

which describes numerically the relative deviation of the APT result from the $1/N$ prediction at point x . The function $R(x)$, shown in fig. 2, decreases from $R(0) = 1$ to $R(11.1) = -0.053$, where it reaches its minimum. The line $R = 0$ is an asymptote for $R(x)$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$. Inside the region $1 < x < \infty$ the difference in values between the two approximations amounts to $|R| \simeq 5\%$ at most.

The GN model with $U(1)$ chiral symmetry has a massless pseudoscalar state π in the spectrum. The RG improved two-point Green function of this state, $\Delta_\pi(Q^2)$, obtained at leading order in the $1/N$ expansion [8], depends on the invariant coupling $\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$

$$iN\Delta_\pi^{(1)}(Q^2) = \left(1 + \frac{4M^2}{Q^2}\right) N\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(Q^2). \quad (6)$$

The pseudoscalar propagator develops a pole at $Q^2 = 0$, as it should be. On the other hand, its UV behaviour is described by formula (1) in accordance with general requirements of chiral symmetry.

Now, suppose that the strength $\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$ in (6) is replaced by the APT coupling $\bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$. From our previous consideration one might expect to see the strongest

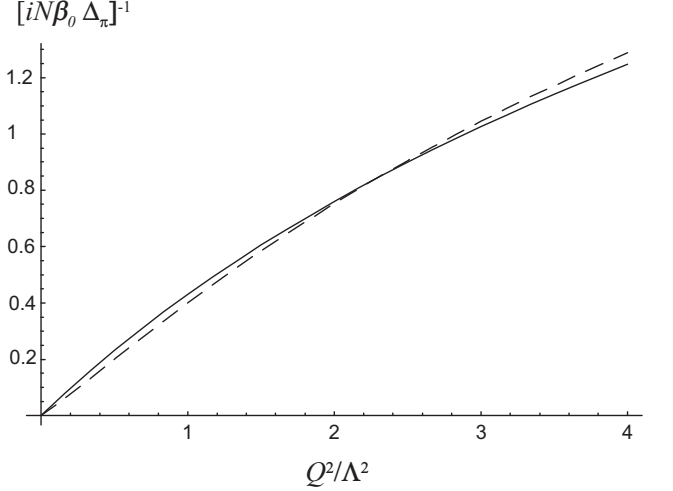


FIG. 3: The $1/N$ approximation for the inverse propagator of massless pseudoscalar (full curve) in comparison with the APT result (dashed curve) as functions of Q^2/Λ^2 .

effect from such replacement in the IR domain of Q^2 . However, the physical IR singularity of eq. (6) at $Q^2 = 0$ dominates at small momenta, $0 < Q^2 < \Lambda^2$, causing a substantial suppression of this effect. This renders the agreement between the two approaches compared in fig. 3 even better than between the quantities in fig. 1 (To avoid the singularity at $Q^2 = 0$ we plot the inverse function of (6) in fig. 3). Indeed, the two functions given by eqs. (2) and (3), which may differ up to a factor of 2 in the region $0 < Q^2 < \Lambda^2$, show almost the same behaviour after being multiplied by the term $(1 + 4\Lambda^2/Q^2)$. Therefore, although the low-energy behaviour of \bar{g}^2 given by the running coupling $\bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$ is less accurate as compared with $\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$, the analytic approach is still suitable for a reasonable description of the massless pseudoscalar boson propagator in the IR region, provided the ChSB effects are correctly implanted.

To conclude, we have compared here the leading order results of the standard $1/N$ expansion of the GN model in the Euclidean region of momenta $Q^2 > 0$ with the corresponding results obtained by the methods of analytic perturbation theory. These two alternative approaches lead to different expressions for the effective RG invariant coupling constant $\bar{g}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$. In the first case the coupling $\bar{g}_{1/N}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$ is essentially the result which contains important information about the dynamics of ChSB at low energies. In the second case the analytic coupling $\bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$ is obtained without special regard to the ChSB effect, respecting only the basic principle of analyticity. The comparison shows that the nonperturbative contribution in $\bar{g}_{APT}^{2(1)}(Q^2)$ corrects the RG improved perturbative result (at least up to the region of the Landau singularity at $Q^2 = \Lambda^2$) in surprising accordance with the general requirements of dynamical ChSB in the IR region. This is an interesting and a priori unexpected

feature. We believe that our result is generic for renormalizable theories with asymptotic freedom and dynamical chiral symmetry breaking. Therefore, with due care, it can also be applied to QCD, i.e. provided that the effect of dynamical ChSB is indeed the essential mechanism governing the non-perturbative dynamics close to $Q^2 = 0$. If other details are important we expect new contributions beyond the GN result to arise.

Acknowledgements We are indebted to D. V. Shirkov for his interest, critical remarks, and for clarifying discussions. This work has been supported in part by grants provided by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, POCI/FP/63412/2005, POCI/FP/63930/2005 and POCI/FP/81926/2007. This research is part of the EU integrated infrastructure initiative Hadron Physics project under contract No.RII3-CT-2004-506078.

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